

their grandfather." For 82 years, he remained committed to the same people and principles. In the final analysis, Ted Sorensen was sustained by the world of words, just as his words sustained the world.

How do we honor a man whose own enduring words pay him far greater tribute than ours ever could? Paying tribute to Nebraska Senator George Norris, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed the following criteria: "History asks, 'Did the man have integrity? Did the man have unselfishness? Did the man have courage? Did the man have consistency?'" Like his lifelong political hero Norris, this much Ted Sorensen had—and more.

Much more than a counselor to a president, Ted Sorensen was the keeper of the Kennedy flame, and the conscience and unrivaled communicator of liberalism in America. Largely thanks to him, Kennedy campaigned in poetry and governed in the same manner. Ted Sorensen's speeches were poetry written in the meter of American memory, and it is fitting that he has become part of our national narrative himself as his prose takes its place in the pantheon of the past. Together with his friend and political patron, Ted Sorensen lit a fire, and the glow from that fire continues to truly light the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to Ted's wife, Gillian Martin Sorensen; his children, Eric, Stephen, Philip, and Juliet; his seven grandchildren; his brother, Philip; and his sister, Ruth. Ted Sorensen was the last and the best of the New Frontier, and words cannot adequately express his impact. We have lost the man who challenged our country to live up to its promise in liquid, living prose. His words and his work will live on in the muted marble of the Kennedy gravesite, and in the hearts and minds of all those who thrilled to his vision of a kinder, more just America. He and President Kennedy inspired me and drew me to public service, and I am especially blessed to pay tribute to this extraordinary American. Ted Sorensen has drafted the words and the blueprint; now, the trumpet summons us once more, and again the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans. We mourn his passing and we accept his final challenge to realize our Nation's best ideals.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE PAUL W. TRESSLER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Paul W. Tressler who is retiring after faithfully serving the people of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania as a judge, prosecutor and public defender for much of the last four decades.

Judge Tressler's distinguished public service career started as a prosecutor in the District Attorney's Office in 1968, eventually organizing and supervising the County's first Narcotics Task Force and serving as head of the appellate division. Appointed by Gov. Richard Thornburgh to fill a vacancy on the bench in April 1983, Judge Tressler later that year was

elected to a full term and has held the job since then.

Improving the adjudication process for juveniles, and ensuring the effectiveness of the various programs for young offenders, have been hallmarks of Judge Tressler's tenure. As Juvenile Judge, he established the first truancy program in Montgomery County and played a central role in securing a grant to establish a model program to prevent children from being held in secured detention for more than six hours. Thanks to Judge Tressler's hard work and dedication as Administrative Juvenile Judge, County juvenile agencies have been recognized with numerous prestigious state and national awards, including Shelter Education Program of the Year, the Residential Program of the Year, the Outstanding Detention Program and the Community Service and Victim Services Award. He is sharing his tremendous knowledge as an instructor with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, currently teaching prosecutorial practices in its child abuse and exploitation course.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the outstanding service and extraordinary career of the Honorable Paul W. Tressler and all who dedicate their careers to the pursuit of justice.

HONORING WILLIS EDWARDS

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Civil Rights icon Willis Edwards for being honored during tonight's "Heroes in the Struggle" gala in recognition of his commitment to HIV/AIDS activism.

For decades, Mr. Edwards has been dedicated to maintaining a national dialogue on HIV/AIDS. As a member of the National Board of the NAACP he helped to establish the HIV/AIDS Committee of the NAACP, and has served as a member of that committee since 1997. He has spoken across the country and around the world on HIV/AIDS issues, and served as Associate Producer for the film "The Faces of AIDS."

Too often people do not want to confront the HIV/AIDS epidemic, but it is advocates like Mr. Edwards who remind us that millions of people around the world continue to contract and to suffer from this deadly virus.

HIV/AIDS is but one of the many areas for which Mr. Edwards has served as a leader and advocate over the course of his lifetime, and I am pleased to offer my congratulations for this award he so clearly deserves.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, Monday, November 29, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 5877 and H. Res. 771 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I

been able to vote. Last night I was conducting a meeting with local businesses in my district and was unable to travel to Washington, DC in time for the votes.

Had I been present on rollcall No. 581 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 5877, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 655 Centre Street in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, as the "Lance Corporal Alexander Scott Arredondo, United States Marine Corps Post Office Building", I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present on rollcall No. 582 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 771, Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Mesothelioma Awareness Day, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 6464, THE "FIREFIGHTER SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2010"

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 6464, the "Firefighter Safety Enhancement Act of 2010". This bill helps address the needs of this country's dedicated heroes—our firefighters—who risk their lives every day as they race to save ours. Many of these brave men and women, whether they are volunteer, on-call, or career firefighters, are in dire need of new and up-to-date fire stations and training facilities. We truly need to address this matter, because their duties already place firefighters' lives and health in danger, and we should not allow them to work in facilities that also put them at risk.

I have seen firsthand in my own district that our fire stations are deteriorating and many are beyond repair. In Virginia, Minnesota, the fire station is more than 100 years old. It was originally designed for horse-drawn apparatus, and the floor is so stressed that giant timbers have been used to support the structure so the fire engines do not fall through the floor into the basement. In Pine City and Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota, the fire stations outlived their usefulness decades ago.

We expect our Nation's firefighters to protect us, and yet we have not provided them with the necessary fire stations and training facilities that help us protect them. When he was running for President a number of years ago, Senator John Kerry said, "we shouldn't be opening firehouses in Baghdad and closing them down in our own communities." That message remains as true today as it was then.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6464, the "Firefighter Safety Enhancement Act of 2010".

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE MARY CURTIS DAVEY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the long life and lasting legacy of